

# THE BEE

## WASHINGTON

VOL. 28 NO 53

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY MAY 30, 1908.

### OUR SUPERINTENDANT

PROFESSOR ROSCOE CONKLING BRUCE SPEAKS — HIS SCHOLARLY ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATES.

(Extracts from commencement address delivered by Roscoe Conkling Bruce, Assistant Superintendent of Public Schools, Washington, D. C., to the graduates of Avery College, Pittsburgh, Pa., Tuesday, May 26.)

Here and there, particularly in private institutions like Spelman Seminary and Hampton Institute and the universities like Atlanta and Fisk and Shaw, white teachers — most from the North, but some from the South — of the finest culture and the noblest devotion, will always, I pray and believe, continue to teach Negro youth in the heart of the South. For this service the Negro people will always feel as they have always felt — profoundly grateful. But, schools — industrial and normal, elementary and secondary, great and small — even colleges and professional schools, such separate institutions for Negro students will more and more seek teachers and executive officers in men and women of Negro blood. In point of fact the teachers of Negroes are today in the vast majority of cases black, and neither South nor North questions for a moment the competence of black men and women for such service or the wholesome effects of such an arrangement upon the spirit and attitude of the students and upon the whole present social situation. The quickening of Negro life must come more and more from within, the uplifting forces will be more and more in the hands of Negroes. Now, the fundamental problem of any school is not land and buildings, but personnel — the personnel of the teaching body. It is a grievous error to suppose that a good heart and some ability to read and write adequately equip a teacher of the common branches; or that sobriety and some skill with saw and plane and hammer make a teacher of carpentry. One of the most serious problems which a great institution like Tuskegee, for example, has to face, is the dearth of men and women of liberal education, specific training in teaching, and professional spirit and ideals. Negro public schools are everywhere gravely embarrassed by lack of principals and teachers with a sound and thorough education. This issue is now upon us; the demand for well-equipped Negro teachers for all classes of Negro schools is at this moment very far in excess of the supply. The black teacher of the best education and the best training is never out of a job; the field of his influence and service is almost limitless.

The Negro college in the South should admit students who have never studied Latin or Greek, and should enrich its curriculum by the addition of thorough courses in natural science with its applications of trade and industry; in history and social science with special attention to the traditions and history and progress of Negro peoples in Africa and in America, and to the sociological problems in which Negro life in America is enmeshed today. The Negro college should render its curriculum flexible and more widely serviceable through the introduction of an elective system by whose provisions the dead languages might give way to the living languages and history and social science, and pure mathematics to psychology and ethics and the principles and practice of education. And finally the Negro university should organize well equipped schools of education, of engineering, of agriculture alongside the schools of medicine. Some of these reforms have already been compassed or are in progress, I am glad to say, in the best Negro colleges and universities of the South.

PHILADELPHIA A. M. E. ZION CONFERENCE.

Philadelphia, May 18, 1908.

With optimistic and inspiring words Booker T. Washington addressed the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Conference on Thursday evening at Wesley Church, five hundred people

being turned away for want of room. He chose for his theme "The Unity of the Colored Race." He was introduced by the Hon. J. C. Dancy, who said that "the great purpose in the life of the great Negro leader and educator was to prove that the Negro race could make men." Dr. Washington was greeted with continuous applause. In part, he said: "There are certain essential and important points upon which as a race we ought to and must unite. One of these points is the idea that we are to remain in this country and to be permanently classed as American citizens. We can also unite upon the proposition that it is only by constructive efforts, such as your great Church has shown, that we shall build ourselves up as a race. We can unite again upon the idea that we have a great opportunity in this country to enter into business, to become commercial factors; and in these respects the Negro minister must in a large degree be the leader and the guide. In respect to material and business betterment, the Negro minister, unlike the white minister, must teach the people, because many of the material and commercial considerations that now confront the Negro have been settled centuries ago by the white man himself; hence it is important that the Negro minister perform a broader and more varied service than is true of the white minister. In our Southern country, especially, does the Negro have an opportunity to sell his labor in whatever market he chooses, and he has a rare opportunity to succeed in commercial and business enterprises." In emphasizing the importance of education for the Negro, Dr. Washington said he had been privileged to raise by his own efforts three hundred and fifty thousand dollars for this work during the past year. Friday afternoon there was a heated contest for the three vacant bishoprics, and upon the second ballot the following candidates were chosen: Dr. M. R. Franklin receiving 276 votes, Dr. G. L. Blackwell 265 votes, and Dr. A. J. Warner 229 votes. A two-thirds vote being necessary to a choice — which was 214 votes. After the election a committee completed the raising of a fund of twenty-five hundred dollars, which will be used as first payment upon the Varack Chapel, corner of Nineteenth and Lombard streets, which was opened for the first time on Sunday. Rev. E. C. Simms, a delegate from Florida, died suddenly from heart disease; a sum of one hundred dollars was raised by Conference for his funeral, and a Florida delegate was sent to accompany the remains home. Saturday morning fraternal greetings were presented from the Methodist Episcopal Church by Rev. T. J. Moffin, and responded to by Rev. G. C. Clement. Reports were also received from the educational institutes of the Church, Dr. W. H. Goler speaking for Livingston College; Prof. T. C. Brown for Greenville, Tenn.; High Schol. and Rev. M. L. Lee for Lancaster, S. C.; High School. Dr. A. E. Raggs, of Atlanta, Ga., made an interesting report of the Bible Society. Sunday, Bishop Alexander Walter preached the morning sermon at Wesley Ch., his subject being the "Civic Progress that Has Been Made by the Negro." In the afternoon all of the ten bishops helped to dedicate the newly purchased edifice at Nineteenth and Lombard streets, which will hereafter be known as Varack Chapel. The purchase price was thirteen thousand five hundred dollars. Bishop Alexander Walters, of the Fourth Episcopal District, presided over today's session, which was devoted to reports from various committees and the presentation of resolutions for the consideration of other committees.

Philadelphia, May 21, 1908.

The committee of the General Conference submitted its report to that body now in session this morning. The report divides the Church territory into ten episcopal districts, and makes assignments of the bishops, who are to preside of the conferences for the next four years. Philadelphia Conference is put into a new district, with Virginia, South Florida and Cuba, and has a new president

ing officer in the person of Bishop John Wesley Smith. The other districts and presiding bishops are as follows, viz.: First District New York and Central North Carolina Conferences, Bishop J. W. Hood.

Second District — Western New York, Blue Ridge and North Georgia Conferences, Bishop C. R. Harris.

Third District — New England, North Carolina and African Conferences, Bishop A. W. Wallis.

Fourth District — New Jersey, Western North Carolina and Alabama Conferences, Bishop G. W. Clinton.

Fifth District — North Alabama, Central Alabama, South Mississippi and Florida Conferences, Bishop J. W. Astor.

Sixth District — Philadelphia, Bal-



Benjamin P. Birdshall

timore, Virginia, South Florida, and Cuba Conferences, Bishop J. W. Smith.

Seventh District — Allegheny, Ohio, West Alabama and California Conferences, Bishop J. W. Caldwell.

Eighth District — South Carolina, Palmetto and Georgia Conferences, Bishop M. R. Franklin.

Ninth District — Mississippi, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Philippines Conferences, Bishop Geo. W. Blackwell.

Tenth District — Tennessee, West Tennessee, Mexico, Louisiana, and North Louisiana Conferences, Bishop A. J. Warner.

The report on education was made by Prof. S. G. Atkins, the educational secretary, and under his recommendations a General Educational Board is provided for, which is to be composed of all the bishops of the Church and certain designated persons, who are to have supervision of all the schools of the denomination. Under the new regime the assistant secretaryship of education is abolished. There were offered during yesterday many resolutions dealing with the many things of the various Church departments and reports from committees were received. Today is to be the final day of the Conference, and the next General Conference will be held at Charlotte, N. C. Last evening memorial services were held in honor of James Varack, the first bishop of the Church, and for Bishops I. C. Clinton and J. B. Small, and Mrs. C. C. Pitney, wife of the late Bishop Pitney.

J. H. Gray.

IRA T. BRYANT WINS OUT. The journalistic and printing office fraternity of the Capital are delighted over the triumphant election of Mr. Ira T. Bryant as secretary of the A. M. E. Sunday School Union. The great Methodist publishing plant at Nashville will take on new life under the management of Mr. Bryant, who, though a young man, is a veteran in the business that is now to be entrusted to his energetic hands. Mr. Bryant made a gallant fight, and against tremendous odds, and eminently deserved his victory.

DR. WASHINGTON'S APPEAL  
May 18, 1908.

My dear Sir:

December 2, 1909, a little more than a year from now, will mark the half-century since John Brown, of Ossawatimie, died at Harper's Ferry. The Negro people of this country revere the name of John Brown. His death marked a date in their history. Perhaps no other man of the white race ever identified himself so fully with our race and cause. Others were wiser; others accomplished more; but the name of no one has impressed itself deeper on the hearts and minds of the masses of our people.

It has been proposed that Negroes all over the United States should unite next year to commemorate in some fitting way the day of John Brown's death. In a letter dated

to Philadelphia, where he addressed an overflowing audience in connection with the General Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church. He then proceeded to Norfolk, where he spoke in the monster skating ring, as no church large enough to accommodate the crowds could be secured. The \$500 taken at the door in Philadelphia was presented to the Zion Conference as his contribution to the noble cause, and at Norfolk a larger sum was similarly donated. Hampton Institute, his alma mater, where he delivered an inspiring speech last Saturday, was made happy by the proceeds there realized. Dr. Washington has been the means of placing more cash money in the hands of the various denominations and educational institutions than any other Negro in the world. This is really constructive leadership.

PROF. H. M. BROWN'S ADVICE  
Cheyney, Pa., May 6, 1908.

Miss E. A. Chase,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss Chase:

I have just read the enclosed clipping from the Star, giving an account of the effort of the parents of the Jones School to discourage bad behavior of our people in the streets and elsewhere. I want, first to congratulate you and thank you; second, to call your attention to the following advice given by Rabbi Krauskopf to the Jews: "We have too many in our race who think that money covers every shortcoming of social polish and force themselves into places and circles frequented by the best of the land, where their lack of refinement, their loudness and showiness, their vulgarity and their desecration of the sanctity of Sunday, are extremely offensive to the other guests and force upon themselves the alternative of staying away or obliging the Jew to be kept away."

This assertion was made by Rabbi Joseph Krauskopf yesterday in delivering the last of his sermons on "Prejudice: Its Genesis and Exodus and Its Cure, on the Part of the Jew," in the Temple Keseth Israel, Broad street above Columbia avenue. Continuing, he said:

"It is not a very difficult matter for the hotelkeeper to decide to whom of the two to cater. He finds it easier to bar all Jews than to subject all to the examination as to their standing in culture and fitness to associate with the best on equal terms of refinement."

"When refused, they ascribe it to prejudice. But to people of culture, refinement in those with whom they associate is as necessary as the air they breathe. Good manners is not such a trivial matter as some moneyed people seem to think. Let them try to acquire culture, and they will find that the acquisition of it is harder than that of money, and they will respect it more."

Mr. Krauskopf declared, however, in conclusion, that "what is regarded as mere social breach or an eccentricity when committed by one of the 'Four Hundred' is considered an unpardonable sin when committed by one of us."

It is quite gratifying to read in your last issue that under the present school officials the longer existence of petty kingdoms of favoritism in the special departments is at an end, particularly in that of domestic science, where it has been rampant.

### INQUIRY.

Is it true that with all the unrest and strain in the schools that some of our colored supervisors are arranging to give tests during the extremely warm days of June to again stir up the feelings of the overworked teachers by their unfairness?

The two regiments and the First Separate Battalion, U. G. D. C., will go in camp at Fort Washington and Fort Hunt from July 15 to August 1st.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO EXCURSION.

Sunday, May 31.

\$1.00 Harper's Ferry and Martinsburg and return.

\$1.35 Berkeley Springs and return.

\$2.00 Cumberland and return.

Special train leaves Washington at 8.15 a.m.

### PARAGRAPHIC NEWS

By Miss Beatrice L. Chase.

It now looks as if New York District Attorney Jerome has a number of charges laid at his door, and he will be required to answer the demands of the law.

Rt. Rev. Charles E. McDowell went to Rome and expressed personally the loyalty of his diocese to His Holiness the Pope. The Bishop presented a substantial offering of Peter's pence.

Howard University was the center of attraction not only educationally but socially from the beginning of its closing exercises to the end.

The recent heavy rains have caused the loyalty of his diocese of the country to suffer already from the overflow of rivers.

The bill for educating four Filipinos at West Point was sent the first of the week to the President for his signature.

A bill regulating child labor in the District of Columbia was passed last Monday by both houses of Congress.

Mr. Charles Gant Beckwith, whose funeral took place last Wednesday, was the youngest son of Mrs. Mary J. and the late John H. Beckwith.

Gen. John M. Wilson, U. S. A., in his address to the graduates of Gunston Hall warned the young women against becoming "new women."

Notwithstanding the warm weather has hardly started, there have been a number of cases of sickness caused by the intense heat.

Mr. William Gilbert, who graduated from the Academic Department of Howard University, is the son of Rev. M. W. Gilbert, of New York City.

Maxwell's Talisman says members of Congress will be forced to explain in the next campaign why Congress refused to repeal the Timber and Stone Act.

Plans are being formulated to improve the shore line of this city.

President Roosevelt had as his guests of honor at a reception this week a delegation of prominent officials of the Republic of Liberia.

It has been announced that the bathing beach will be opened to the public the early part of June.

The Kaleidoscope Club No. 2 will give a concert and dance at Masonic Temple, 1111 Nineteenth street, next Wednesday evening, June 3. Admission, 15 cents.

The eight new bishops elected at the Methodist Episcopal Conference in Baltimore are considered to rank among the foremost divines of this age.

Mrs. John A. Logan was energetic in bringing about the election, as a bishop, of her pastor, Dr. Frank M. Bristol, who is stationed at the Metropolitan M. E. Church.

The fire in the music store of E. F. Droop & Sons Company last Wednesday morning did damage to the amount of \$40,000.

A noticeable feature in the deaths which occurred the past week is that many of the oldest residents have paid the final claim.

It is reported that prohibition scored a victory last Tuesday at the election in North Carolina by a majority vote of 40,000.

The stenographer of the House of Representatives was directed not to record a speech made by Mr. Heflin last Wednesday.

Anthony Herri, valet to Lew Vogel, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from Switzerland, tried to end his life by shooting himself last Saturday morning.

It is stated that Lemoine's preparations for the manufacture of diamonds at his laboratory at St. Denis, Paris, are now completed and that he is ready to begin work.

Bishop W. F. McDowell, of Chicago, delivered the bassalaureate sermon to the graduates of Howard University last Sunday afternoon in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel.

Nathan Haines, former State Senator of New York, died at his home in Burlington last Sunday.

A mammoth airship on its trial trip

Continued to page 4.